Development of Horticulture among the Tribals in Madhya Pradesh

*135. SHRI AJIT P. K. JOGI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what steps are being taken to develop horticulture in a big way among the tribals of Madhya Pradesh to raise their economic status;

(b) whether any targets had been fixed and achieved in this regard; and

(c) what allocations were made for this purpose during the last three years and what were the corresponding utilisation figures?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BHAJAN LAL): (a) to (c) In Madhya Pradesh, schemes for development of fruit plantations and vegetables are being implemented to improve the economic status of the tribal farmers.

Fruit Development

1. Around irrigation wells and for kitchen garden, 10 and 5 plants respectively are distributed free of cost.

2. Five coconut seedlings in Bastar district and 5 banana suckers per farmer are distributed in the tribal areas with subsidy at 75 per cent of the cost.

3. Financial assistance is given to small and marginal farmers for fruit plantation.

4. Under community orchard scheme financial assistance is provided for planting and further maintenance, departmentally, or five years.

5. Under individual fruit development scheme, planting is done in the holdings of individual farmers for which financial assistance is given to them.

6. In one hundred thirty three development blocks of tribal areas, fruit nurseries have been established where improved quality saplings are produced.

7. Training programmes are organised to provide technical know how on fruit development to the tribal farmers.

8. Old seedlings of mango, aonla and ber are being improved by top working with new varieties.

Vegetable Development:— Following schemes have been taken up for vegetable production to provide incentives to tribal farmers:—

1. Potato demonstration: In the hilly tracts of state which are mostly tribal areas, potato demonstrations are laid during Kharif season. For this, financial assistance is provided to the farmers. The potato cultivation will be extended in the hilly areas during Kharif in future which will provide good returns to farmers in a short period.

2. Seed distribution: For extension of area under new vegetable varieties, seeds are distributed.

3. Subsidy is provided on plant protection equipment to Control insects, pests and diseases of vegetables.

Targets are fixed every year for the above schemes and their achievements are monitored. The details of targets, achievements, allocations and their utilisations are given in the enclosed statement.

Statement

DEVELOPMENT OF HORTICULTURE IN MADHYA PRADESH

I. *TARGETS AND ACHIEVEMENTS* 1987-88

	Target	Achievement
1. Fruit Plantations (in ha.)	6591	5111
2 Plants raised in nurseries (in lakhs)	184	219

	Target	Achievement
3. Fruit plants Distribution (in lakhs) . .	4 56	5.91
4. Vegetable Seed Distributioh (No. of packets in lakh)	0 25	0·40
5. Distribution of Plant Protection Equipment (Nos)	888	952
6. Potato Demonstrations (Nos) . . .	1915	4518
7. Farmers trained (Nos)	552	385

II. *ALLOCATION & UTILISATION OF FUNDS DURING FIRST THREE YEARS*

	State Plan (in lakh)	Central Assistance (in lakh)	Total (in lakh)
Allocation . . .	649·45	830·00	1479.45
Utilisation . . .	620.29	761·28	1381·57

Amendment to the Press and Registration of Books Act

*136. SHRI RAOOF VALIULLAH: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to introduce legislation to amend the Press and Registration of Books Act: if so what are the major issues to be incorporated in the draft legislation;

(b) how many titles of news papers and periodicals are blocked at present and whether the interest of small and medium newspapers is likely to be safeguarded while amending the Act; and

(c) how would Government check the irregularity in the periodity of publication of newspapers and periodicals and whether Government intend to form a separate machinery to monitor this aspect?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT): (a) Yes Sir. The amendment will be quite comprehensive. It is not possible to give the details at present.

(b) Approximately, 1,80,000 titles are blocked at present. The interests of all newspapers including newspapers belonging to small and medium categories will be kept in mind while affecting the amendment.

(c) This aspect will also receive due attention. There is at present no proposal to set up a separate machinery to monitor this aspect.

Technical collaboration in the seed sector

*137. SHRI ASHOK NATH VERMA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the norms and conditions Government have laid down for allowing foreign technical collaboration in the seed sector on Royalty Payment basis under its new policy on seed development announced recently;

(b) what are the names and addresses of the companies firms which have been allowed foreign technical collaboration along with names and addresses of foreign collaborations in seed sector on royalty payment basis during the last three years and terms of technical collaboration, company-wise; and